

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE  
PERRYSBURG JOURNAL ON THE  
OCCASION OF ITS 150TH BIRTH-  
DAY

### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, on March 10, 2003, the Perrysburg Messenger Journal will celebrate its 150th birthday. The Perrysburg Journal, one of the parents of today's Perrysburg Messenger Journal, began publication on March 10, 1853. It was not the first newspaper in Wood County: Eight weeklies in Perrysburg preceded it. But today it is the oldest newspaper in Wood County and the oldest business in Perrysburg.

The eight-pager made its appearance without fanfare because of President Franklin Pierce's Inaugural address. The lengthy railroad laws also crowded out the "salutatory" editorial Silmon Clark had prepared. Mr. Clark heralded his newspaper with an announcement at the bottom of page 7. Under the flag, he dedicated it to "Agriculture, Commerce, Manufactures." By carrier, the paper cost \$1.75 a year; by mail, \$1.50. He set up shop "in a room upstairs, north end of the Baird House." Although the Journal was a new publication, Mr. Clark hailed it as the successor to his earlier Fort Meigs Reveille, which he renamed The Perrysburg Star because he said "Reveille" was not a good English word, people couldn't pronounce it, and he was tired of "the cruelty of the attempt."

He ceased publication of the Star in 1852 and he sold the printing office to A. D. Wright. Professor Wright then started the North-Western Democrat. Along with the laws and the political news, the first paper carried pieces on far-ranging subjects, such as current conditions in Rome, census figures for St. Louis, poetry, and platitudes. As was common practice, Mr. Clark borrowed freely from other newspapers, stories not limited to sharing police reports from other parts of the country. Frontier newspapers in the isolated villages and busy river towns were like that in those days. They entertained and they informed. They brought the outside world to eager readers. Perrysburg readers waited for installments of such serials as "Indian Story" and "Walmsby House", or the "Lover's Revenge, a Story Laid in the South of Ireland."

The newspaper also advised and chastised. It contained strongly partisan opinions, national news gleaned from larger papers received by the latest post. It contained literary material or "notices" (advertisements) for goods like Dr. Rojack's Blood Purifier. One had to look for the little bits of local news, which usually had no headlines and were scattered in the columns. The early weeklies of the era were small, hand-set, and often crude, but they had much to do with the crystallization of public opinion that made the West a new factor in American politics, according to a history of the mass media, "The Press in America" by Emery and Emery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Perrysburg Messenger Journal on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary. For well over a century now the Journal has provided the news fairly and accurately to the people of Northwestern Ohio. I am proud

to offer these sentiments today properly documenting this event in the record of the 108th Congress.

### RECOGNITION OF ANDREW JOSEPH GRAVES

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Joseph Gordon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, where he progressed to the rank of Webelos. He also participated in summer camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation and earning the status of warrior in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. During the thirteen years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 41 merit badges and is brotherhood member of the order of the arrow. Andrew also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements, earning the Bear Claw award, the God & Me Award, and the Arrow of Light award. Andrew has also served in a variety of leadership positions, including Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Andrew built a rock foot bridge and rocked part of the path at the Parkville Nature Sanctuary in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Andrew Joseph Gordon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

H.R. 1716

### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, As an initial co-sponsor, I offer my support of H.R. 1716, a bill to make sure that Impact Aid to school districts to provide educational support, is assured as an entitlement. Today, as members of our military are being shipped abroad in large numbers to prepare for a possible war, it is critical for them to know that their children's schools are being supported by their government.

The need for Impact Aid has been clear for over half a century. Begun in 1950, Impact Aid recompenses districts for the loss of a variety of taxes which form the basis of school support. Military land and the military homes located on that land do not contribute to property taxes. Over three-quarters of the military members in my district claim residency in other states and do not pay state income or car registration taxes. In addition, all sales on military installations are exempt from state sales taxes. Property, income, and sales taxes are the money which pays for education.

Because the frequent transfer of military members results in increased transiency in

schools, districts which serve large numbers of military children have increased costs.

The school districts located in my congressional district are also known for offering a variety of services to special needs children. When military families have children with a high level of needs, the service provides compassionate assignment flexibility to enable them to stay in the area. This further increases costs for these districts.

After more than half a century of support, it is time to stop making annual judgments about the value of Impact Aid. It is time to openly declare to every member of our armed services that we assure them that support for their children's education is not negotiable. Our commitment must not waiver.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE VICTIMS OF CRIME FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

### HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation important to victims of crime and their families. The Victims of Crime Act, or VOCA, was a tremendous victory in the fight to aid those affected by crime. It established a trust fund composed of criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalty fees and special assessments collected by the U.S. Attorney's Offices, U.S. Courts and Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Sadly, a spending cap was installed on the VOCA trust fund. This trust fund generates close to \$1 billion dollars each year, yet only an average of \$535 is actually distributed annually to the states. While state crime victim assistance programs struggle to remain fully funded, the balance just sits there unused. My legislation, the "Victim of Crime Fairness Act of 2003" would eliminate this spending cap and direct the money toward its original intention, helping victims of crime.

Every day we see in our local news stories of homicides, sexual assaults, child abuse, drunk driving accidents, kidnapping and arson. The list goes on and on. I applaud President Bush for his efforts to strengthen and organize security on all fronts for our country. Preventing all crimes, whether they are acts of terrorism or domestic abuse, is the first step in creating a more peaceful world. However, when a crime does occur there is a victim. This victim is stripped of their security, their dignity, and often times their physical capability to function normally in the day-to-day world. Eliminating the spending cap on the VOCA trust fund would allow victim advocates to do their job. It is a fact; helping mend people's lives that have been tragically altered by crime cannot be done for free.

My state of Connecticut loses almost \$5 million a year due to the VOCA cap. This money could make all the difference in thousands of peoples lives. Connecticut's State Victim Advocate James Papillo wrote, "The programs funded by the VOCA fund benefit crime victims in Connecticut through direct financial support and crime victim support services. These funds help crime victims when they most need it. Given the substantial reduction in the amount of funds available to the states caused by federal earmarks, and the real